

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00137 01 OF 02 051029Z

13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 IO-13 DRC-01 /109 W

----- 009091

R 041314Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 558

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BELFAST 0137

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR REFERENCE

AUGUST 30, 1973

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: HEATH VISIT TO N.I.

REF: BELFAST 133, 136, AND A-57

1. HEATH VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND AUGUST 28 AND 29 WAS MARKED BY MUCH EVIDENT SECURITY PRECAUTION AND BY VIRTUALLY NO EXTRA VIOLENCE.

2. PM SAW ELECTED LEADERS OF VARIOUS ASSEMBLY DELEGATIONS; VANGUARD'S CRAIG REFUSED TO TALK BECAUSE PM'S INVITATION DID NOT INCLUDE NONASSEMBLYMAN LEADERS, WHOM CRAIG WANTED TO HAVE WITH HIM. HIS MAIN MESSAGE TO THEM (BELFAST 133) WAS THAT DELAY IN GETTING ASSEMBLY GOING, INFORMING OF EXECUTIVE OR IN DEVOLVING POWERS TO ASSEMBLY WOULD PLAY INTO HANDS OF I.R.A. AND THAT PEOPLE OF BRITAIN WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND RELUCTANCE OF N.I. POLITICIANS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF STEPS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00137 01 OF 02 051029Z

HMG HAS TAKEN TO RESTORE POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL LIFE IN

ULSTER.

3. AT FOREFRONT OF ISSUES DISCUSSED WAS INTERNAL SECURITY. FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH MAJORITY AND MINORITY THIS LARGELY MEANT FUTURE OF RUC, ALTHOUGH OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS NECESSITY FOR ROOTING OUT TERRORISTS, DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL, SECTARIAN ASSASSINATIONS AND ALLEGED HARASSMENT BY ARMY OF CATHOLIC AREAS WERE ALSO RAISED. OTHER MAIN POINTS WERE CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF N.I. (MAJORITY REPRESENTATIVES: BORDER IS INVIOABLE, CANNOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL ANOTHER POLL IS TAKEN, AND POLL CANNOT BE TAKEN UNTIL 1983; MINORITY POSITION: STATUS OF N.I. SETTLED BY RECENTLY-ENACTED CONSTITUTION ACT, I.E. AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE) AND COUNCIL-OF-IRELAND-RELATED IDEAS (MAJORITY: FOOTDRAGGING AND UNENTHUSIASTIC; MINORITY: SEEKING FIRMER COMMITMENT TO MORE SPECIFIC CONCEPT THAN CONFERENCE FORESEEN BY WHITE PAPER).

4. AFTER MEETING WITH PM, UNIONIST LEADER FAULKNER EXPRESSED MUTED SATISFACTION WITH HEATH'S RESPONSES TO UNIONIST PRESENTATION. LATER, HOWEVER, UNIONIST ASSEMBLY PARTY ISSUED TOUGH STATEMENT WHICH STARTED WITH WE-TOLD-YOU-DIRECT-RULE- WOULD-LEAD-TO-INCREASED-VIOLENCE STATEMENT, AGREED WITH HEATH ON NEED FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE DEVOLUTION OF POWER TO NEW EXECUTIVE, BUT LAID DOWN CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO THEIR PARTICIPATING IN EXECUTIVE: ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ACCEPT THAT:

(A) THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT MUST BE ACCEPTED COMPLETELY. IN PARTICULAR IT MUST BE ACCEPTED THAT NORTHERN IRELAND'S CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE BORDER POLL AND CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AGAIN UNTIL ANOTHER POLL IS HELD, AND THAT NOT BEFORE 1983. THE CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION IS NOT OPEN FOR DISCUSSION.

(B) THE R.U.C. IS CONFIRMED AS THE ONLY POLICE FORCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND ITS POSITION AS SUCH IS NOT NEGOTIABLE.

5. PAISLEY, REVIEWING HIS APPARENTLY HEATED CONVERSATION WITH PM, REPORTEDLY SAID HE TOLD PM HIS PROPOSALS WERE UNWORKABLE AND HIS MISSION A FAILURE. AT PM'S SUGGESTION THAT EXECUTIVE SHOULD GET TOGETHER LIKE A CABINET, PAISLEY WONDERED HOW THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BELFAS 00137 01 OF 02 051029Z

COULD BE DONE IF REPUBLICANS WERE MEMBERS (I.E. PERSONS COMMITTED TO TERMINATING CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION). PRESS REPORTS SAY PM TOLD PAISLEY HE WAS DELIBERATELY FOSTERING DISSENSION AND DISCORD THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00137 02 OF 02 051037Z

11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 IO-13 DRC-01 /109 W

----- 009133

R 041314Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 559

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BELFAST 0137

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R P A R A 8

6. SO FAR AS HAS COME OUT, TALKS WITH ALLIANCE'S OLIVER NAPIER WERE NON-CONTROVERSIAL. NAPIER LIKELY TOLD PM, HOWEVER, OF SERIOUSNESS OF POLICE QUESTION. NAPIER HAS BEEN SAYING FOR WEEKS THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER OR NOT FEELINGS AGAINST RUC ARE JUSTIFIED; CATHOLIC COMMUNITY'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RUC AS THEIR POLICE IS FACT OF LIFE.

7. USUAL SDLP SPOKESMEN HAVE NOT BEEN SAYING MUCH. ASSEMBLY-MAN CANAVAN, COMMENTING ON UNIONIST POSITION ON RUC, TOOK MODERATE LINE THAT POLICE FORCE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE, AND TO GET ONE IT IS INADVISABLE TO PUT HARD-AND-FAST PRECONDITIONS. CANAVAN ALSO BLANDLY AND POINTEDLY SAID THAT UNIONIST DEMAND FOR IRONCLAD CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES "DEPENDS SOLELY ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT (AND) ... IS NOT THEREFORE A STRONG BASE, AS THE EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS SO GRAPHICALLY PROVE." HE NOTED THAT REAL POWER WILL ONLY BE GIVEN TO ASSEMBLY THAT SPEAKS WITH ONE VOICE. THIS WOULD DEPEND NOT ON A CONSTITUTION BUT ON "ABILITY OF REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO COMMUNITIES TO ESTABLISH A SINGLE IDENTITY." GERRY FITT, IN TV APPEARANCE, SAID "THERE MUST BE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00137 02 OF 02 051037Z

PROGRESS IN ALL THREE AREAS" (COUNCIL OF IRELAND, POLICE, ENDING OF DETENTION -- HE CALLED IT "INTERMENT" -- WITHOUT TRIAL) BEFORE SDLP COULD PARTICIPATE IN EXECUTIVE.

8 AT WHITELAW DINNER (BELFAST 136) ASSEMBLY'S PRESIDING OFFICER MINFORD REMARKED THAT MANY OF ASSEMBLY'S MEMBERS ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT APPEARANCES, PARTICULARLY OF THEIR APPEARING TO ACHIEVE NOTHING AT ALL OR NOT TO BE TRYING. WOULD THEREFORE EXPECT THAT WE NOW WILL HEAR OF TALKS ACROSS PARTY LINES BY LOCAL POLITICIANS OF UNIONIST, ALLIANCE, SDLP AND NILP STRIPE AT LEAST. PAISLEY MIGHT ALSO GET INVOLVED, AS, ACCORDING TO WHITELAW, PAISLEY WAS "VERY CONTRITE" WHEN THEY MET LAST WEEK AND PAISLEY RAISED MATTER OF LONDONDERRY CORONER'S REMARKS AT BLOODY SUNDAY INQUEST (BELFAST A-57).

PENBERTHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BELFAS00137
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730957/aaaabpwp.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BELFAST 133, 135, AND A-57
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HEATH VISIT TO N.I.
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI, (HEATH, EDWARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005